

**EVALUATING  
ACADEMIC READINESS  
FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING**  
Revised for  
**ACCESS TO APPRENTICESHIP**

**MATHEMATICS SKILLS  
RATIO AND PROPORTION**

**AN ACADEMIC SKILLS MANUAL  
for**

**The Construction Trades (Structures)**

This trade group includes the following trades:  
Drywall & Acoustical Applicator, General Carpenter,  
Mason (Brick & Stone and Restoration), Reinforcing Rod Worker, Roofer,  
Terrazzo, Tile & Marble Mechanic

*Workplace Support Services Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities*

*Revised 2011*

In preparing these Academic Skills Manuals we have used passages, diagrams and questions similar to those an apprentice might find in a text, guide or trade manual.

**This trade related material is not intended to instruct you in your trade. It is used only to demonstrate how understanding an academic skill will help you find and use the information you need.**

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# MATHEMATICS SKILLS:

## RATIO AND PROPORTION

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*An academic skill required for the study of the  
Construction Trades (Structures)*

### INTRODUCTION

#### Comparing Numbers

Numbers are compared in a variety of ways. One way numbers can be compared is by noting their difference.

**Example:** If one car sells for \$36,000 and another car sells for \$18,000, we say the first car costs \$18,000 more than the second. In this comparison, we subtract to find the difference.

We can also compare numbers by division.

**Example:** To find the pitch of a roof, we compare the vertical rise of the roof to the span (the horizontal distance from the eaves to the peak of the roof). We divide the vertical rise of the roof by the span. If the rise of the roof is 8 feet and the span is 32 feet, the pitch is the ratio 8 to 32. Reduced to lowest terms, the pitch is 1 to 4.

We can compare by using a *ratio*. A *ratio* also compares numbers in a form that indicates *division*. Usually the numbers in a ratio are reduced to lowest terms but not actually divided.

Ratios give useful information about the relationship between numbers. Reinforcing rods or rebar are produced in 2 strength grades: 60 and 40 indicating the strength in 1000 pounds per square inch. We compare the strengths using a ratio of 60 to 40. We can reduce this ratio, to a ratio of 3 to 2. It tells us that the 60 grade can support 1 ½ times the weight of the 40 grade rod.

Ratios are also used to solve problems using proportion, and to read blueprints that are drawn to scale.

This skills manual looks at the following topics concerning *ratio, proportion, and scale*:

- ◆ Ratio, including
  - finding ratios from given information
  - rates
- ◆ Proportions, including
  - direct and inverse proportions
  - solving a proportion when three out of four terms are known
  - solving problems using proportions
- ◆ Scale

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## **RATIO**

**Comparing two numbers by writing a ratio:** If a reinforcing rod is 2 meters long and another is 3 meters long, you can compare the two lengths by writing them as a ratio.

There are several ways to indicate this ratio:

- ◆ **By comparing one amount to another**, as when we say 2 out of 3.
- ◆ **By putting a colon between the numbers.** The ratio is written 2 : 3. We read this as “*the ratio of two to three*”.
- ◆ **By writing the ratio as a fraction.** The first number being compared becomes the numerator, which is placed over the second number, the denominator. The fraction is usually written in lowest terms. So 2 out of 3 becomes  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

When you write a ratio, you don't actually do the division unless you want one of the terms of the ratio to be 1.

**Lowest terms:** The ratio 2:3 is already in lowest terms. The ratio 8 to 32, used to describe the ratio of the rise to the run (pitch) of a roof, is not in lowest terms. When the ratio is reduced to lowest terms, the pitch is written as 1 to 4. A ratio, like a fraction, is usually, but not always, written in lowest terms.

### **To reduce a fraction or a ratio to lowest terms:**

1. Look for a number (a common factor) that will divide evenly into the numerator and denominator of the fraction or the terms of the ratio.
2. Divide the common factor into the numerator and the denominator or into each term.
3. Continue dividing until there are no more common factors.
4. The last division answers form the fraction or ratio in lowest terms.

**Example:** The strength efficiency of a wire rope used to pull heavy loads changes according to the diameter of the hook it is bent around. The smaller the diameter of the hook, the more the strength of the rope decreases. This effect on the strength efficiency of a wire rope is calculated using the ratio:

$$\frac{\text{Diameter of hook}}{\text{diameter of rope}} = \frac{D}{d}$$

If the diameter of the hook is 4 centimeters and the diameter of the rope is 2 centimeters, the ratio is 4:2. This ratio is not in lowest terms. The common factor is 2. If you divide 2 into each of the terms, you get the ratio 2:1. A table that provides information on safe working loads of rope states that the efficiency of wire rope at this ratio is 65%.

Notice this ratio has no units. When we compare centimeters to centimeters, the units cancel out. If the numbers being compared have the same unit of measure, there are no units in the ratio.

**Ratios with 1:** The ratio 2:1 has the number 1 as one of its terms. The ratio 3:4 does not. Sometimes a ratio like 3:4 is more useful if one of the terms is 1. You could divide both terms by 4 and then express the ratio as .75 to 1, or you could divide both terms by 3 and express the ratio as 1 to 1.33.

Determining the safe working load that a rope can lift is very important in preventing rigging accidents on the job. The safe working load (SWL) is the ratio of the breaking strength of the rope to the factor of safety for the kind of rope being used:

$$\text{SWL} = \frac{\text{breaking strength}}{\text{factor of safety}}$$

**Example:** A nylon three-strand fibre rope with a diameter of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch has a breaking strength of 1250 lb. The safety factor of this rope is listed as 5. The safe working load of this rope is:

$$\text{SWL} = \frac{1250 \text{ lb}}{5}$$

The ratio is 1250 lb:5. Dividing the second term 5 into the first term 1250 lb reduces the ratio to 250 lb:1.

- Because this ratio is always divided so that the second term is 1, the second term is not stated when giving the ratio.
- Notice also that the first term has a unit of measure, pounds, while the second unit has no unit. The unit pounds cannot be cancelled out but is included in the ratio.
- The safe working load (SWL) of this rope is given as 250 lb. It can safely lift a load of 250 pounds.

**Equivalent ratios:** Reducing a fraction to lowest terms does not change the value of the fraction, nor will it change the value of a ratio. The fractions  $\frac{2}{8}$  and  $\frac{4}{16}$  can each be reduced to  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{2}{8}$ , and  $\frac{4}{16}$  are *equivalent fractions*. They each represent the same amount.

In the same way, ratios representing the same amount are called *equivalent ratios*. The ratio 3 to 4 and the ratio .75 to 1 represent the same comparison and are equivalent ratios.

**Ratio used to describe a specific size:** A ratio used to describe the depth of a board compared to its width uses the specific measures of the board.

- A 2 x 4 board is named by the ratio of the measurement of its depth to the measurement of its width (even though the actual measurements are now only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in).
- The ratios describing the depth and width of boards such as a 2 x 4 or a 2 x 8, are not reduced to lowest terms. Nor can you substitute equivalent ratios for them.

### ***Finding Ratios from Given Information***

Before using ratios to solve problems or to read blueprints, we will look at setting up ratios from given information.

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Questions that ask you to set up ratios are generally worded in one of two ways.

1. You might need to compare part of an amount to the total amount; or
2. You might be asked to compare two parts to each other.

**Situation one:** You are asked to compare part of the amount to the total amount. If the total amount isn't given, you first have to find it.

**Example:** A class of apprentices consisted of 6 women and 24 men. What is the ratio of women to the whole class and the ratio of men to the whole class?

First you have to find the total number of students.

Adding  $6 + 24$  gives a total of 30 apprentices in the class.

Now find the ratios:

- a) Ratio of women to the whole class is 6 out of 30, reduced to 1 out of 5,  $1/5$  or  $1:5$ .
- b) Ratio of men to the whole class is 24 out of 30, reduced to 4 out of 5,  $4/5$  or  $4:5$ .

**Situation two:** The question asks you to compare one amount to another. This time you don't need to know the total.

**Example:** Using the class of 6 women and 24 men, what is the ratio of women to men and men to women?

Ratio of women to men is 6 to 24, reduced to 1 to 4,  $1/4$  or  $1:4$ .

Ratio of men to women is 24 to 6, reduced to 4 to 1,  $4/1$  (or  $4:1$ ).

Note: if the denominator is 1 when writing a ratio, you must show it)

### **General Rules For Reading And Writing Ratios**

**Rule 1:** *When you read or write ratios, compare the parts in the same order in language and in numbers, unless they are part of a table or formula.*

To compare the number of women to the class total, the number of women is stated before the class total.

Ratio of women to class =  $6:30$

This is reduced to  $1:5$ .

To compare the number of men to women, the number of men is written before the number of women.

Ratio of men to women =  $24:6$

This is reduced to  $4:1$ .

**Rule 2:** *If the units in each term of the ratio are the same, they will cancel each other out. If the units cancel out, you don't need to include them in the ratio. (Sometimes, however, you want to keep the units in the ratio or they don't cancel out. We will look at them later.)*

The ratio of 25 centimeters to 1 meter is not 25:1. The ratio has to be written as 25 cm to 1 m or 25cm:1m.

Usually it is easier to work with ratios if there are no units, so make the units the same. If you convert 1 meter to 100 centimeters, the units will be the same. You can then cancel them out. The ratio is then written as 25:100 without any units.

If you can't write the ratio with the same unit for all terms, the units must remain in the ratio.

**Rule 3:** Ratios without units are usually expressed in lowest terms.

**Example:** Write the ratio of part time to full time employees in a construction company with 25 part time and 15 full time workers.

**Answer:** The units, which are employees, are the same. Since the question lists part time before full time, that is how the numbers are listed. The ratio is 25:15

Reduce the ratio to lowest terms. Five is a common factor that divides into 25 and 15, giving the answers 5 and 3. The ratio 25:15 reduced to lowest terms is 5:3. The ratio of part time to full time workers is 5:3.

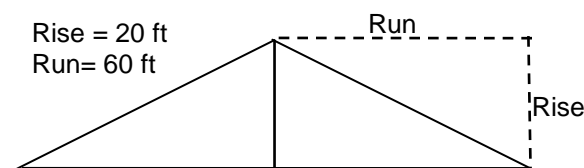
**Example:** What is the roof slope or pitch of a building if the rise (the vertical distance) is 15 feet and the run or span (the horizontal distance) is 30 feet. Use the ratio:

$$\text{pitch} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$$

$$\text{Pitch} = \frac{15}{30}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}$$

reduce to lowest terms



Pitch=Rise over Run

Slope of roof is 1 to 2.

This example shows a common way of calculating slope. However, on some architectural drawings, slope is given as the ratio of the number of inches the roof rises for every foot or 12 inches of run. The roof in the diagram above rises 6 inches for every 12 inches of run. This is given as the ratio 6 in 12 slope. If the rise was 4 inches for every 12 inches of run, the slope would be given as 4 in 12.

### Rates

When units of the quantities in a ratio are the same, they cancel out and so are not shown. When units in a ratio are different, or there is only one unit, the units must be included in the ratio.

Ratios can be used to compare quantities of different types, such as kilometers per hour or cost per kilowatt-hour. These comparisons are called **rates**.

*A rate is a quantity or amount of something measured per unit of something else. A rate includes the word “per”.*

Usually the ratio is divided so the amount of the unit following the word “per” is 1. If a rate

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involves two different kinds of units, they must be included in the ratio.

Driving speed is a rate. Say you drove 300 km in 3 hours. The ratio 300 km/3 hr is reduced to 100 km/1 hr or 100 km/hr. Your rate of speed is 100 km per hr.

Rates that involve a cost per unit, such as the rate we pay for electricity, include the dollar sign. Your electrical bill might say that your electrical rate is \$.30/kw-hr. For every kilowatt-hour of electricity you use, you pay \$.30.

**Answer the following questions on ratios. Answers are at the end of this skills sheet.**

1. Write as ratios using a colon between the two quantities. Convert quantities to the same unit where possible (that is, if the units are cm and m, convert so both quantities are either cm or m). Reduce to lowest terms.

a) 1 to 4                      b) 5 to 8                      c) 5 in to 1 ft                      d) 2 kg to 125 g

e) 1 m to 50 cm      f) 15 min to 1 hr      g) 5 ft to 6 ft 6 in      h) one nickel to a quarter

2. Write as ratios using the fraction form. Reduce to lowest terms.

a) 6 m to 3 m      b) 20 in to 45 in      c) 15 L to 9 L      d) 3 m to 90 cm

3. What is your rate of speed if you travel 400 km in 4 hr?

4. What is the cost of gas per liter if you pay \$5.90 for 10 L?

5. If a drain pipe falls 3 inches over a distance of 12 feet, what is the fall per foot? In other words, express the two numbers as a rate. (Divide both numbers by 12. The first number in the ratio will be a fraction.)

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## **PROPORTIONS**

Two equivalent ratios express the same relationship but are written using different but related terms or numbers. For example,  $1/4$  and  $2/8$  are equivalent ratios and they represent the same amount. We can say that  $1/4$  equals  $2/8$ . We can write this statement as:

$$1/4 = 2/8$$

*Equivalent ratios written in fraction form with an equal sign between them form a **proportion**.*

- A proportion has four *terms*, or parts.
  - The terms of the proportion above are 1, 4, 2 and 8.
  - When we read the proportion, we name all four terms.  $1/4 = 2/8$  is read as “1 to 4 equals 2 to 8.”

### ***Direct and Indirect (or Inverse) Proportions***

There are two basic types of proportions: direct proportions and inverse (sometimes called indirect) proportions.

*In a **direct proportion**, as one quantity increases, the corresponding quantity also increases.* Similarly, as one quantity decreases, the other one also decreases.

**Example:** The relationship between the size of drill bit you choose and the size of hole you drill is a direct proportion.

- The larger the bit, the larger the hole.
- The smaller the bit, the smaller the hole.

This is a direct proportion because as the bit changes in size, the hole changes in size *in the same way*.

*In an **inverse, or indirect, proportion**, as one quantity increases, the corresponding quantity decreases.* As one quantity decreases, the other one increases.

**Example:** The relationship between the number of teeth on a gear and the speed of the gear is an indirect proportion. The number of teeth in a gear determines the amount of torque or turning force.

- But the more teeth on a gear, the less speed there is available.
- As one quantity (the number of teeth or the torque) increases, the other quantity (speed) decreases.
- You cannot have an increase in both torque and speed in one gear.
- Torque is inversely proportional to speed.

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### ***Solving a Proportion When Three of Four Terms Are Known***

Proportions such as  $1/4 = 2/8$  in the example above don't tell us much. We already know that two ratios or fractions that represent the same amount are equal to each other.

But what if you need to mix chemical solution for cleaning brickwork before you begin restoration. The chemical comes in a powdered form and you must add water to it before use. The directions say to add 1000 mL of water to every 4 scoops of the powder. You only have 3 scoops of powder left. How much water must you add to it to make up your working solution?

*We will find the solution to this problem later, but first we will look at a simpler version of it.*

We can use proportion to find the fourth term in a proportion if we know three of the four terms.

#### **Here are the steps to find the fourth, unknown term:**

- 1. Set up a proportion using a letter to represent the unknown amount** in one of the ratios. The letter can be manipulated (moved around) in an equation just like a number. Write the ratios with an equal sign between them, forming an equation.

**Example:** Write the proportion using the two ratios n:10 and 8:20.

$$\frac{n}{10} = \frac{8}{20}$$

- 2. Cross-multiply to get rid of the denominators on both sides.** To cross-multiply, multiply the diagonal numbers across the equal sign. In other words, multiply the numerator of one ratio by the denominator of the other ratio.

If an unknown term is represented by a letter, cross multiply in the same way.

**Example:** Cross-multiply in the equation below to get rid of the denominators.

$$\frac{n}{10} = \frac{8}{20}$$

Notice that n represents the unknown term.

Multiply n by 20 and 10 by 8. Keep the equal sign.

$$20n = 10(8)$$

$$20n = 80$$

- 3. Isolate the unknown term** (get it alone on one side of the equal sign). To do this divide both sides by the number in front of the unknown term.

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**Example:** Isolate n in the following equation.

$$20n = 80$$

$$\frac{20n}{20} = \frac{80}{20} \quad \text{Divide both sides by 20.}$$

$$n = 4$$

$$n = 4$$

Here are some other manipulations that can help isolate the letter representing the unknown term.

**A .** If the letter representing the unknown term is on the right side, reverse the equation before dividing. You can reverse an equation without changing its value.

**Example:** You can reverse:

$$3(15) = 5n \quad \text{to} \quad 5n = 3(15).$$

Both equations have the same value.

**B.** You can invert (turn all of the terms upside down) both sides of the equation without changing its value.

**Example:** You can invert

$$4/s = 5/6 \quad \text{to} \quad s/4 = 6/5.$$

Both equations have the same value.

**Note:** If you invert one side of an equation, you must invert the other side to keep the equation equal.

Now let's look at some examples of finding an unknown term in a proportion using these steps.

**Example:** Solve for n in the following proportion.

$$\frac{4}{5} = \frac{n}{15} \quad \text{Set up the proportion}$$

$$4(15) = 5n \quad \text{cross-multiply}$$

$$60 = 5n$$

$$5n = 60 \quad \text{Reverse the equation so that n is on the left side of the equal sign.}$$

$$5n \div 5 = 60 \div 5 \quad \text{Divide both sides of the equation by the number in front of the unknown term.}$$

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$n = 12$       The letter is isolated on the left hand side of the equation.  
The answer is on the right hand side

Substitute 12 for n to write the complete proportion.

$$\frac{4}{5} = \frac{12}{15}$$

**Example:** Find the value of n when:

$$\frac{n}{12} = \frac{5}{15}$$

$$15n = 5(12) \quad \text{cross multiply}$$

$$5n = 60 \quad \text{divide by 15 to isolate n}$$

$$\frac{15n}{15} = \frac{60}{15}$$

$$n = 4$$

$$4/12 = 5/15 \quad \text{Substitute 4 for n to write the complete proportion.}$$

**Example:** Find the value of n when:

$$\frac{n}{8} = \frac{10}{16}$$

$$16n = 10(80) \quad \text{cross multiply}$$

$$16n = 80 \quad \text{divide both sides by 16}$$

$$n = 5$$

**Example:** Find the value of s.

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{s}$$

$$3s = 9(4) \quad \text{cross multiply}$$

$$3s = 36$$

$$3s \div 3 = 36 \div 3 \quad \text{divide by 3}$$

$$s = 12$$

### ***Solving Problems Using Proportions***

Proportions can be used to solve problems. You have to figure out what goes with what and then set up your proportion to find the unknown quantity. Notice that when you first set up your ratios, you do not usually reduce to lowest terms.

**Method 1:** These suggestions are one method to set up a proportion.

- Set up the ratios (or fractions) so the same units are over each other. For example, set up minutes over minutes, kilometers over kilometers, or meters over meters.
- The units of the two given quantities that form one fraction will cancel out. The unit of the third, known quantity will be the unit of the unknown quantity
- Set up the smaller unit over the larger unit. The proportion will look like this:

$$\frac{\text{small}}{\text{large}} = \frac{\text{small}}{\text{large}}$$

**Example:** How much water must we add to 3 scoops of powder? 1000 mL of water must be added to 4 scoops of powder.

Set up your proportion. The proportion looks like this:

$$\frac{1000 \text{ mL water}}{n} = \frac{4 \text{ scoops}}{3 \text{ scoops}}$$

Put powder over powder and water over water.  
Let n equal the unknown amount of water.

This looks like the proportions we already know how to solve. Find the answer by solving for n:

$$\frac{1000 \text{ mL water}}{n} = \frac{4 \text{ scoops}}{3 \text{ scoops}} \quad \text{scoops cancel}$$

$$3 \times 1000 = 4 n \quad \text{cross-multiply}$$

$$4 n = 3000 \quad \text{reverse}$$

$$n = 750 \quad \text{divide both sides by 4}$$

You will need 750 mL water.

**Method 2:** You can also set up the two ratios so each is given as a rate. When the ratios are set up as rates, in each ratio, one unit is over the other, different, unit. The following example shows how to set up the proportion.

**Example:** If it takes 50 minutes to travel 25 km, how long will it take to travel 75 km at the same speed?

The first ratio or rate is 50 min/25 km.  
The second ratio is *unknown minutes*/75 km.  
Set up the proportion by writing the two ratios,  
Let m represent the unknown time.

$$\frac{50 \text{ min}}{25 \text{ km}} = \frac{m}{75 \text{ km}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{km cancel} \\ \text{you can leave out the other unit, minutes, until the end} \end{array}$$

$$50(75) = 25m \quad \text{cross-multiply}$$

$$25m = 3750 \text{ min} \quad \text{reverse the equation}$$

$$m = 150 \text{ min} \quad \text{divide both sides by 25 and put in the unit min}$$

It will take 150 minutes to travel 75 km.

**Example:** If a drywall application team of workers takes 7 hours to complete the installation and taping of 2 new houses in a subdivision. How many houses can they complete in a 35 hour work week?

We will use the second method, although either method will get the same answer.

The first ratio is 7 hours / 2 houses.  
The second ratio is 35 hours / unknown number of houses.  
Let t represent the unknown number of houses.  
Set up the proportion.

$$\frac{7 \text{ hrs}}{2} = \frac{35 \text{ hrs}}{t} \quad \text{cross multiply}$$

$$7 t \text{ hrs} = 70 \text{ hrs} \quad \text{divide both sides by 7 hrs}$$

$$t = 10 \text{ houses} \quad \text{put in the unit houses}$$

The team can complete 10 houses in a 35 hour week.

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**Here are some questions on proportions. Answers are at the end of this skills sheet.**

6. Solve for the unknown quantity.

a)  $\frac{n}{24} = \frac{1}{2}$

b)  $\frac{2}{x} = \frac{10}{40}$

c)  $\frac{16}{2} = \frac{s}{3}$

d)  $\frac{5}{10} = \frac{12}{n}$

e)  $\frac{n}{7} = \frac{3}{21}$

f)  $\frac{2}{6} = \frac{2.45}{7.35}$

7. If it takes 70 minutes to travel 35 km, how long will it take to travel 85 km at the same speed?

8. Construction screws cost \$38.50 for 10 lb of screws. How much would 45 lb cost?

9. If an engine requires a 1:20 oil to gas mixture, how much oil has to be added to 70 L of gas?

10. If a quart of paint covers 12 sq ft, how much paint is needed to cover 72 sq ft?

11. If a 2 by 4 board weighs .25 kg per linear foot, what is the weight of a 10 ft board?

12. Six acoustic applicators can install sound insulation to building for a printing business in 3 days. How long would it take for three of them to install the same amount of insulation?

13. Stone mason's acrylic bonding agent costs \$43.50 for 6 liters. What does 24 liters cost?

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## SCALE

In the construction trades, you have to know how to make working sketches and how to read and interpret blueprints. The blueprints contain the information you need to successfully complete a project. A blueprint is a drawing of a building or part of a building. The dimensions on a blueprint are scaled down representations of the actual dimensions. It would be impossible to manage the drawing of a large building if the actual dimensions were used.

The **scale** of a blueprint expresses the relationship between the dimensions of the blueprint and the actual dimensions of the building shown in the diagram. The scale is the ratio of the drawing size to the actual size. An equal sign (=) is used instead of a colon when indicating a scale.

A scale uses a smaller unit of measure to represent an actual, larger unit of measure. A scale can be considered as similar to a rate, where the distance on the blueprint is compared to a standard unit, usually 1 foot. For example, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch line on a blueprint can represent an actual length of 1 foot. The scale of the drawing is  $\frac{1}{4}$  in = 1 ft. In this case, a 5 inch wall on the drawing represents a wall that is actually 20 feet long.

The word scale is used in two ways. It is used to indicate the relationship between the blueprint and the actual dimensions, as described above. In equations used to convert blueprint dimensions to actual dimensions, scale indicates the number with the first, smaller unit. So in the example above, the scale is  $\frac{1}{4}$ . The unit of the second number is called the *standard unit*.

When converting a length on a blueprint to an actual measurement, follow these steps:

1. Divide the length on the diagram by the scale, the first number listed.
2. Use the unit of the standard unit (the larger unit) in the answer.

**Example:** If the length on a blueprint of an object is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches and the scale is  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 feet, what is the actual length of the object?

length on diagram  $\div$  scale = actual length

The scale is  $\frac{1}{4}$ . The standard unit is feet.

$2\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{4} = 10$  ft      use the standard unit ft

$2\frac{1}{2}$  inches represent 10 feet.

**Example:** A blueprint is drawn to the scale of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 inch. If the dimensions of an object are drawn as 6 inches by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, what are the actual dimensions?

length on diagram  $\div$  scale = actual length

The scale is  $\frac{1}{4}$ . The standard unit is inches.

$6 \div \frac{1}{4} = 24$  inches

$7\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{4} = 30$  inches

The actual dimensions are 24" by 30".

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In metric dimensions, the scale is usually a decimal or whole number, not a fraction.

**Example:** Find the actual length of a hall if it is 4 centimeters long on a diagram. The scale is 1 centimeter = 1 meter.

$$\text{length on diagram} \div \text{scale} = \text{actual length}$$

The scale is 1. The standard unit is meters.

$$4 \div 1 = 4 \text{ m}$$

If you know a distance on a diagram and the actual distance, you can find the scale by following these steps:

1. Divide the scale length by the actual length.
2. If the scale is imperial, write the answer as a fraction. If the scale is metric, write it as a decimal.

**Example:** Find the scale of a blueprint if 10 centimeters on the diagram represents 20 meters.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{scale distance} \div \text{actual distance} \\ &= 10 \text{ m} \div 20 \\ &= .5 \end{aligned}$$

The scale is .5. To express this as a ratio, put the unit of the blueprint length with the scale (cm). The standard unit is 1 followed by the unit of the actual object. The two units are separated by an equal sign.

$$.5 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ m}$$

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**Answer the following questions about scale. Answers are at the end of this skills manual.**

14. If the scale of a blueprint is  $\frac{1}{5}$  in = 1 ft, what is the actual length of an object that is 3 inches on the diagram?
  
15. What are the actual dimensions of a building that measures 20 centimeters by 24 centimeters on a blueprint with a scale of 4 cm = 1 m?
  
16. If 2 inches on a blueprint represents 6 feet, what is the scale? Express the scale as a ratio.
  
17. What is the actual length and width of an object if it is shown as 4 inches by 3 inches on the blueprint. The scale is  $\frac{1}{2}$  in = 1 ft?
  
18. A blueprint has a scale of 10 cm = 1 m. What is the actual diameter of a circle if the diameter measures 20 cm on the blueprint?

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**ANSWER PAGE**

**RATIOS Page 6**

1.
  - a) 1 : 4
  - b) 5 : 8
  - c) 5 : 12 (change 1 ft to 12 in)
  - d) 16 : 1 (change kg to g)
  - e) 2 : 1 (change m to cm)
  - f) 1 : 4 (change hr to min)
  - g) 10 : 13 (change 5' to 60" and 6' 6" to 78")
  - h) 1 : 5 (change nickels and quarters to cents)
  
2.
  - a)  $\frac{2}{1}$
  - b)  $\frac{4}{9}$
  - c)  $\frac{5}{3}$
  - d)  $\frac{10}{3}$  (change m to cm)
  
3. 100 km/hr
  
4. \$.59/L
  
5.  $\frac{3}{12}$  inches per  $\frac{12}{12}$  ft Reduce the fraction.  
1/4 inch per 1 foot  
1/4 inch fall per foot

**PROPORTIONS Page 12**

6.
  - a) 12
  - b) 8
  - c) 24
  - d) 24
  - e) 1
  - f)  $\frac{27}{11}$

**Note:** You may set up your proportions differently than the way shown here. It doesn't matter which way you set up your proportion as long as you get the correct answer.

7.  $\frac{70 \text{ min}}{35 \text{ km}} = \frac{m}{85 \text{ km}}$   
 $70(85) = 35m$   
 $35m = 5950$   
 $m = 170 \text{ min}$

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8.  $\frac{\$38.50}{10} = \frac{k}{45}$   
 $10k = \$38.50 \times 45$   
 $k = \$173.25$

9.  $\frac{1}{20} = \frac{t}{70}$   
 $20t = 70$   
 $t = 3.5 \text{ L}$

10.  $\frac{12}{72} = \frac{1}{s}$   
 $12s = 72$   
 $s = 6 \text{ qt}$

11.  $\frac{.25 \text{ kg}}{1 \text{ ft}} = \frac{n}{10 \text{ ft}}$   
 $n = 2.5 \text{ kg}$

12.  $\frac{3}{6} = \frac{3}{s}$   
 $3s = 18$   
 $s = 6 \text{ days}$

13.  $\frac{\$43.50}{6 \text{ L}} = \frac{X}{24 \text{ L}}$   
 $6X = \$1044$   
 $X = \$174.00$

**SCALE Page 14**

14.  $3 \div \frac{1}{5}$   
 $= 15 \text{ ft}$

15.  $20 \div 4$   
 $= 5$   
 $24 \div 4$   
 $= 6$   
Dimensions are 5 m by 6 m

16.  $2 \div 6 = \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$   
Scale is  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch = 1 ft.

17.  $4 \div 1/2$

= 8

$3 \div 1/2$

= 6

Length is 8 ft.

Width is 6 ft.

18.  $20 \div 10$

= 2

Diameter is 2 meters.